Now that you know the alphabet and understand basic principles of Russian spelling and grammar system, you will have an opportunity to “taste” Russian literature, to focus on the meaning, to understand differences of style, and to quote freely from famous Russian, Soviet and émigré writers.

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF READING in RUSSIAN!
Русский язык 150  
Русский язык и литература (секция РКИ)  
Осенний семестр 2018

INSTRUCTOR  | Irina Dubinina
---|---
OFFICE HOURS: | M, W, Th 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment

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FULBRIGHT TA | Elizaveta (Liza) Repina  
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COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
In this course we will work with short unadapted texts and excerpts from longer works by the prominent twentieth-century Russian writers. Our goals are close reading to understand minute details and word play of the original texts, and variations in style of different authors. You will further advance your knowledge of the Russian grammatical system, noun cases, verbal conjugation and syntactic structures. You will further advance your understanding of root and prefix system. Finally, in this course you will dramatically increase your vocabulary.

MATERIALS  
The textbook required for this class is "Advanced Russian: From Reading to Speaking" (both Book 1 and Book 2) by Sophia Lubensky and Irina Odintsova (Bloomington, IN 2010).

You are also **required** to have access to a good Russian-English dictionary and a Russian language dictionary which explains the meanings of words. Словарь русского языка by Ozhegov (Ожегов) and on-line dictionaries:  
www.slovaryandex.ru and multitran.ru offers good translation.

Classroom policies

**Behavior:** You are expected to contribute to a respectful and positive learning environment. **Please do not bring food to class as much as it can be helped.** You should be able to finish your lunch either before or after class. It is hard to practice a foreign language while your mouth is busy with food.

**Punctuality** is essential.
Cell phones: I rely on your maturity to know that the use of cell phones in class for any reason is disrespectful and distracting. Phones should be turned off and out of sight while class is in session.

Communication: Please make sure your Brandeis e-mail address is active and check it regularly. I will communicate a lot of important information about the course to you via the Course Announcement function on our LATTE page or by direct e-mailing. Again, I rely on your maturity and respect for this course to maintain an open channel of communication with your instructors throughout the semester.

ПЛАН РАБОТЫ
You will be given a work plan for each chapter that we cover in the book. Depending on your abilities and commitment, we may cover 4 or 5 chapters. The chapter work plan is flexible and may be changed. Therefore, you should always bring the work plan with you to class in order to write in any changes. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out if there were any changes made. If you miss class, you are expected to keep up with the syllabus and come to the next class prepared.

GRADING
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Preparation and Participation (25%):
25 (out of 26 possible) lessons x 10 pts each = 250 points

Homework (20%)
20 (out of 22 possible) home x 10 pts each = 200 points

Weekly Vocabulary/Grammar Quizzes (10%)
20 quizzes x 5 pts each = 100 points

Compositions (20%)
4 essays x 50 points each = 200 points

Oral Reports (15%)
3 reports x 50 points each = 150 points

Final Examination (take-home) (10%)
graded on a usual %-based grading scale

Preparation and Participation (25%)
In a way, this course operates on a “flipped model”: you have to memorize the words, read the text or prepare the retelling of a story at home in order to be able to participate fully in class. Therefore, it is essential that you keep up with the work.
Being unprepared for class means that you cannot participate in a meaningful way and will hold up the rest of the class. Therefore, coming to every class and preparing for each lesson is essential not only to your learning, but also to the learning of your peers. Just being in class is not enough to gain proficiency in the language. You need to be active and engaged. You will receive a daily participation score based on the following scale:

**Full credit (10 points)**  
**Well** prepared (i.e., have done the homework and is prepared to work with new grammatical material and vocabulary in class) and **actively** participates; comes to class on time

**No credit (0 points)**  
Absent or does not participate in a meaningful way

On rare occasions, I may consider giving partial credit (5 points).

You are allowed to miss 2 classes for whatever reason before you start losing points.

**Homework (20%)**
You will be responsible for reading the texts at home, memorizing new words, completing exercises and preparing oral reports. In fact, many homework assignments will involve vocabulary memorization. You should plan on setting aside some time each day for memorization work. You must be prepared to discuss the text in class and be able to use all the new vocabulary assigned as homework. You bare the same responsibility for oral homework as for written homework. For oral homework, you will be asked to submit a recording of your speech on LATTE.

Homework must be submitted on the day when it is due and will be returned to students at the following class period in most cases. If you know that you will not be able to make it to class, submit your homework in advance or arrange for a friend to hand it in for you.

Expectations for the homework are the following:
- a) work is turned in on time and at any rate, no later than one week after the due date;
- b) work is complete (all assigned exercises are done);
- c) it is at least 90% correct, and
- d) there are no systematic errors which would indicate that re-learning and re-focusing is required.
There are three possible scores you may receive for your homework:

- **Full credit** – 10 points
  - if your work meets the expectations outlined above.

- **No credit** – 0 points
  - for homework that is late by more than a week.

- **Partial credit** – 5 points
  - if your homework does not meet expectations, you will receive a “v-”, which means that you will need to correct all circled mistakes and re-submit the work NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE UNIT. Full credit (10 points) will be given only when all corrections are made and the work is re-submitted. If you do not submit your corrections, you will receive partial credit.

Only **one** re-submission is allowed.

**Quizzes (10%)**
There will be weekly short quizzes over selected vocabulary items and grammar concepts. You will be given specific directions regarding how to prepare for each quiz.

There are three possible scores you may receive for your homework:

- **Full credit** (5 points)  your work is at least 90% correct
- **Partial credit** (2.5 points)  your work is below expectations (between 80-89% correct)
- **No credit** (0 points)

**NOTE:** you can retake a quiz if you get 0 points, but the maximum you can get on a re-take is 2.5 points.

**Compositions (20%) and Oral Reports (15%)**
Usually one composition topic will be assigned per reading unit. You will have two submissions for each composition: first submission will receive extensive feedback, which will allow you to have an improved second submission, which will be graded. You will have more time to work on your compositions than on regular homework assignments.
You will also be given a chance to present the thoughts expressed in your compositions in class. Your oral reports will serve as the foundation for a discussion in class.

**Final Exam (10%)**
You will have a final which will consist of oral presentations on themes discussed throughout the semester and worked on in your compositions.

**GROUP DYNAMICS**
This class relies heavily on all of you working together. Some of you are faster at grasping new grammar concepts and memorizing new vocabulary while others require more time to process language information. Personality types also play a huge role in how people learn languages: some are afraid to speak in front of other people and are very shy; others are more outgoing and are not afraid of experimenting and taking chances. Please be patient with each other and be polite. Very importantly, be respectful to each other by coming to class prepared!

**USEFUL CONTACTS**
The Russian Studies program has been chosen to host a Fulbright Teaching Assistant this year again. Elizaveta Repina comes from Tyumen. She will be a valuable resource for you in terms of language and culture. Her e-mail address is elizavetarepina@brandeis.edu, and she will have regular office hours (check her office door in Golding).

**STATEMENT ON BRANDEIS ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person, be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner, without proper acknowledgement of that source.

Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section Three of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure of the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor for clarification.

**NOTICE OF ACCOMMODATION**
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.